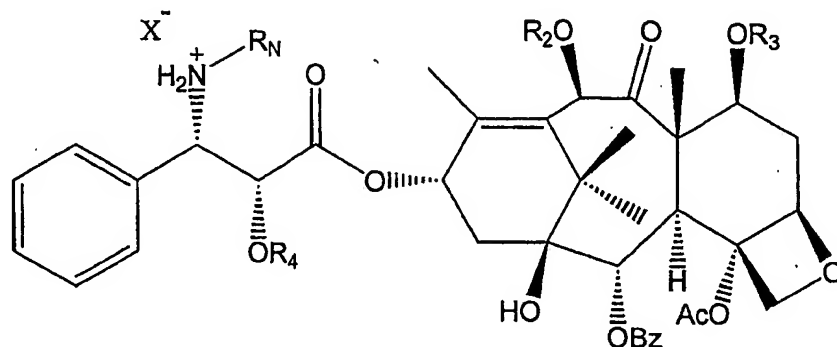


Amendments to the Claims:

We claim:

1. (Original) A compound for producing of a taxane or precursor or analog thereof, comprising:



wherein,  $R_2$  is H, Ac or a protecting group;

$R_3$  is H, xylosyl or protecting group;

$R_4$  is H or protecting group;

$R_N$  is H or an alkyl group; and

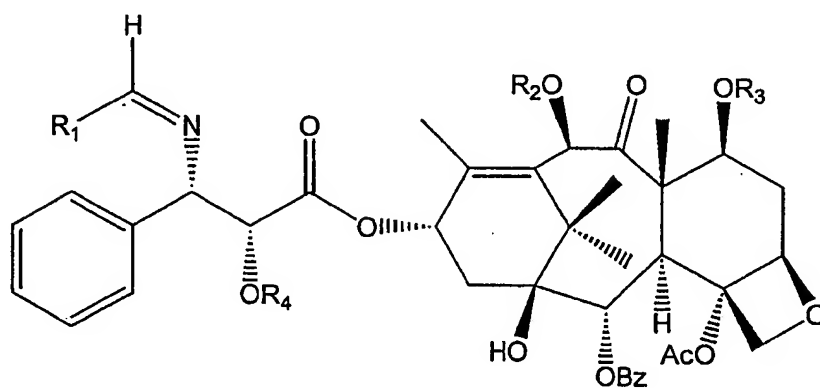
$X^-$  = deprotonated sulfuric acid.

2. (Original) The compound of claim 1, in solid form.
3. (Original) The compound of claim 2, in solid substantially purified form.
4. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein  $R_2$  is Ac and  $R_3$  is H.
5. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein  $R_2$  is H and  $R_3$  is H.
6. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein  $R_2$  is Ac and  $R_3$  is xylosyl.
7. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein  $R_2$  is H and  $R_3$  is xylosyl.
8. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein  $R_2$ ,  $R_3$  and  $R_4$  is the protecting group selected from the group consisting of triethylsilyl, trimethylsilyl, trichloroethoxycarbonyl or ethoxyethyl ether.
9. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein  $R_3$  and  $R_4$  is a protecting group selected from the group consisting of triethylsilyl, triethylsilyl, trichloroethoxycarbonyl and ethoxyethyl ether.
10. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein  $R_3$  and  $R_4$  is trimethylsilyl.

11. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein  $R_4$  is a protecting group selected from the group consisting of triethylsilyl, triethylsilyl, trichloroethoxycarbonyl and ethoxyethyl ether.

12. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein  $R_4$  is trimethylsilyl.

13. (Original) A method of forming a taxane salt comprising the steps of: (i) contacting a taxane imine with a solvent; and (ii) contacting a taxane imine with a sulphate-containing acid; said taxane imine having the formula:



wherein,  $R_1$  =alkyl, aryl, carbonyl or ether group;

$R_2$  =H, alkyl, aryl, ester, ether or protecting group;

$R_3$  =H, alkyl, aryl, ether, ester, xylosyl, or protecting group;

$R_4$  =H or protecting group.

14 – 33. (Canceled)

34. (Original) A method for producing a taxane from taxane mixtures comprising:

(i) contacting the taxane amide mixture with a transition metal reducing agent to provide a taxane imine mixture;

(ii) contacting the taxane imines with a solvent;

(iii) contacting the taxane imines with an acid to provide a taxane amine; and

(iv) contacting a taxane amine with at least one acylating agent to form a taxane.

35 – 61. (Canceled)

62. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein X is a deprotonated nitric acid or other nitrogen containing acids.

63. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein X is a deprotonated sulfur containing acid.

64. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein X is a deprotonated carboxcyclic acid, except trifluoro acetic acid.

65. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein X is deprotonated phosphoric acid or any phosphorus containing acid.

66. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein X is deprotonated tartaric acid.

67. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein X is deprotonated perchloric acid.

68. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein X is deprotonated p-tolulene sulfonic acid, and said compound is in solid form.

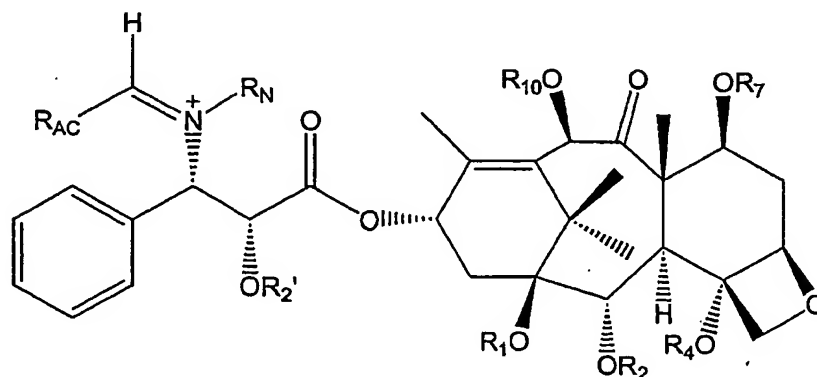
69. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein X is a deprotonated picric acid.

70. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein X is a deprotonated halogen containing acid, except hydrochloric acid.

71 – 78. (Canceled)

79. (Original) A method of forming a taxane imine or iminum compound, comprising the steps of:

(i) contacting a taxane amide with a transition metal containing compound to form the taxane iminum compound comprising:



where R<sub>1</sub> is hydrogen; R<sub>2</sub> is hydrogen, an acyl group or a hydroxyl protecting group; R<sub>4</sub> is an acetate group; R<sub>7</sub> is hydrogen, an alkyl group, an aryl group, an ester group, an ether group,

a glycoside group, an oxo-group, or a hydroxyl protecting group; R<sub>10</sub> is hydrogen, an alkyl group, an aryl group, an ester group, an ether group, or a hydroxyl protecting group; R<sub>2</sub> is a hydrogen, a hydroxyl-protecting group, an alkyl group, and aryl group, an ester, an ether group, or a vinyl group; R<sub>N</sub> is an alkyl group; R<sub>AC</sub> is an alkoxy group, an alkyl group, an aryl group, an arylalkyl group, an ether group, a heterocyclic group, an acyl group, or a vinyl group.

80. (Original) A method of forming a taxane salt comprising the steps of: (i) contacting a taxane imine with a solvent; and (ii) contacting a taxane imine with a deprotonated nitrogen containing acid, deprotonated phosphorus containing acid, tartaric acid, perchloric acid, deprotonated phosphorous containing acid, deprotonated picric acid, p- deprotonated p-tolulene sulfonic acid or deprotonated halogen containing acids, except hydrochloride.

81 – 100 (Canceled)

101. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein the compound is for the production of taxol A.

102. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein the compound is for the production of taxol B.

103. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein the compound is for the production of taxol C.

104. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein the compound is for the production of taxol D.

105. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein the compound is for the production of taxol E.

106. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein the compound is for the production of taxol F.

107. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein the compound is for the production of taxol G.

108. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein the compound is for the production of Docetaxel.

109. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein the compound is for the production of Nonataxel.

110. (Original) A method of forming a taxane imine comprising the step of: (i) contacting a taxane amide with a transition metal reducing agent.

111. (Original) The method of claim 110, wherein said transition metal reducing agent is selected from the group of transition metal reducing agents consisting of Schwartz's reagent (zirconocene chloride hydride), Schwartz's reagent analogs, Schwartz's reagent derivatives, titanium-containing reducing agents, hafnium-containing reducing agents, niobium-containing reducing agents, and molybdenum-containing reducing agents.

112. (Original) The method of claim 110, wherein said transitional metal reducing agent comprises zirconocene chloride hydride.